

**COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA**  
**Mack Ridge Working Group Meeting Minutes**  
**April 18, 2002**

Attendees:

Dan Rosenthal	Pat Kennedy	Lynae Rogers
Robert Anthony	Tom Lucks	Connie Rosenthal
Gene Arnesen	Tom Nix	Julie Stotler
Nadja Brozina	Chris Pipkin	Jane Ross
Jim Cooper	Clark Rieves	Lovell Sasser
Kevin Foote		

**Greetings and Introductions**

Kevin Foote approved the April 4 meeting minutes. There were no comments made on the last meeting.

**Working Group Discussions**

The Working Group then began rating the trails and determining which trails were appropriate for the different user types. The group decided to start with Rustlers Loop.

**Rustlers Loop:**

Rating: Easy

Users: Foot, Bike, and Horse

Estimated time: Bike, 1.5 hours; Hike, 2 hours; Horse, 1.5 hours

Lovell Sasser wants the gate fixed for horses. Tom and Kevin stated that probably no trails throughout the entire area are suitable for the disabled to access, with the exception of the I-70 Frontage Road.

**Mary's Loop (double-track only):**

Rating: Easy

Users: Foot, Bike, and Horse

Estimated time from the Kokopelli Trailhead: Bike, 1 hour (out and back); Hike, 1 hour; Horse, 1 hour

Lovell feels that, for the horseback riders, Steve's Loop is the second-easiest trail after Rustlers Loop.

**Mary's Loop (complete loop):**

Rating: Intermediate

Users: Foot and Bike agreed on, Horse use controversial

Estimated time from the Kokopelli Trailhead: Bike, 1.5 hours; Hike, 3 hours; Horse, 2.5-3 hours

Dan Rosenthal questioned the reasoning behind not allowing horses on the trails; whether accessing the trail, or feasibility for passing on the trail is the reason. Kevin expressed his feeling that the trails were built for mountain bikers, and he does not feel the trail will maintain its character. Kevin said that horses would widen the trail, and he is concerned about safety issues, such as feasible passing areas. Lovell stated that she has never had a problem on Mary's Loop and feels that the trail gets a lot of equestrian use during the week. Large groups also use the area on weekends. She expressed her concern in losing the area for equestrian use. Lynae Rogers, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rangeland Management Specialist, pointed out an old jeep trail as an alternative route for horses, and Chris Pipkin, BLM Recreation Technician, agreed that it would be a good trail. Kevin wanted that route to be considered for beginner mountain bikers, as well as horses.

#### Horsethief Bench:

Rating: Intermediate

Users: Foot and Bike agreed on, Horse use controversial

Estimated time from the Kokopelli Trailhead: Bike, 1 hour; Hike, 1.5 hours; Horse, 1 hour

Lovell said this was her favorite trail, and the trail's beginning will weed out the lesser-skilled riders. Lynae feels the trail's surface will hold with horses. Pat Kennedy expressed a need for suggesting directions for users to take and offered clockwise for mountain bikes, counterclockwise for horses and hikers.

#### Steve's Loop:

Rating: Intermediate

Users: Foot, Bike, and Horse

Estimated time for loop only: Bike, 0.5 hour; Hike, 1 hour; Horse, 1 hour

Kevin wants to see a reroute to the west out of the drainage, where the slope is not as steep. Pat was concerned about using BLM resources to acquire the state land, when the resources could be better utilized elsewhere. Jane Ross, Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA) Planning and Environmental Coordinator, stated that the money used to purchase land does not come out of the National Conservation Area (NCA) budget. Dan also explained that, without the land, the BLM could not put facilities in that area. There is also a concern that someone else may purchase the acreage. Jim Cooper, BLM Transportation Planner, proposed the idea of moving the trailhead to an area that is already managed by the BLM. Kevin added that by closing off the road, you would be pulling traffic out of the NCA area. Jane stated that before the discussion went any further, we would need to get someone from the county to be part of the group.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m., after discussing the April 30 field trip.